

Fwd: PSIO SITREP UPDATE #20 – 14 Feb 2022 – Freedom Convoy Solidarity Activity

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Date: Mon, 14 Feb 2022 18:33:30 -0700

Consolidated update attached.

From: PSIO-Intelligence <PSIO-Intelligence@gov.ab.ca>

Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 6:30:42 PM

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Subject: PSIO SITREP UPDATE #20 – 14 Feb 2022 – Freedom Convoy Solidarity Activity

**PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ONLY: SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS SITUATION DEVELOPS.
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UPDATE #20

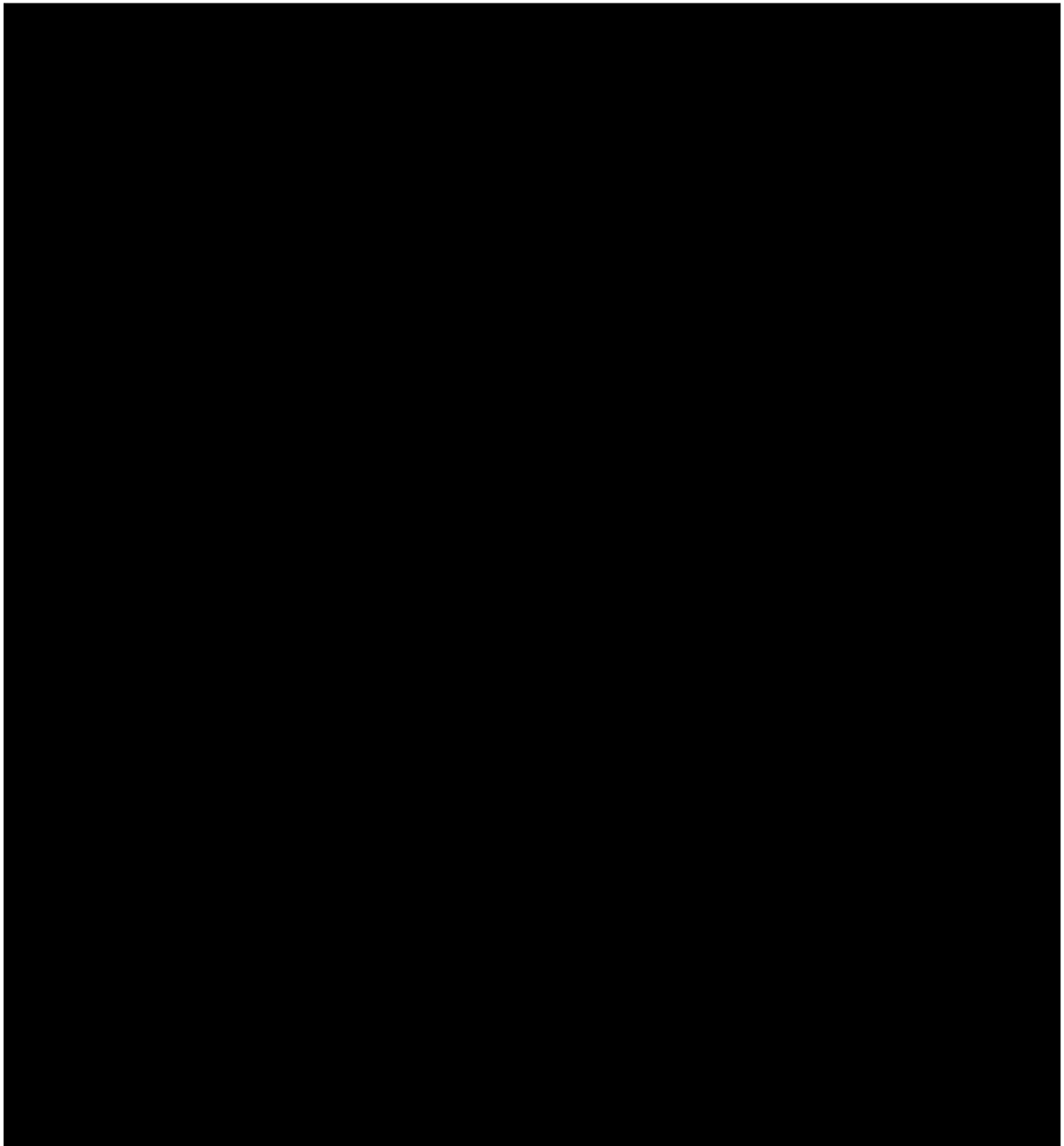
DATE/TIME: February 14, 2022 @ 18:30 hrs

PURPOSE: To provide aggregated situational awareness regarding “Freedom Convoy” solidarity activity impacting Alberta.

BACKGROUND: No change.

CURRENT STATUS:

Coutts Border Crossing & Milk River:



- Sheriff resources continue to be engaged to ensure checkpoints north of the CARWAY and DEL BONITA POE's are active while the ports are open (both close at 18:00 today). No protest activity to report.
- Sufficient tow trucks will be available if/when required.
- The identified legal protest area on the west side of MILK RIVER still remains a reasonable option presented by police to shift the protest group off the highway near CP10 and CP14 in Milk River. At this juncture, no movement by protesters has occurred.
- The [Government of Canada](#) has stated \$48 M in daily trade is affected by the COUTTS blockade.
- Response to GOC announcement of *Emergencies Act* by pro-Convoy social media groups was vigorous. One organizer called for children to be removed from the COUTTS blockade site for their safety.

Alberta Legislature / McDougall Centre

- No additional updates at this time.

City of Edmonton & Environs

- No additional updates at this time.

City of Calgary & Environs

- On Tue 15 Feb, there is a planned protest at CALGARY REMAND CENTRE calling for the release of Artur PAWLOWSKI. [CPS anticipate approx 100 people to attend. Similar protests have been occurring for the previous 6 days, but organizers are calling for supporters to attend Remand and Canadian Government offices on 15 Feb. There is no current and reliable intelligence to indicate that any problems are anticipated.]

Regional Municipalities / Rural

- Social media posts indicate that blockade supporters identified a number of “wreckers” moving southbound on Hwy 2 from CALGARY at approximately 21:30 hrs 13 Feb. [This is an indicator of heightened awareness within blockade networks regarding movement of equipment that could be utilized in enforcement activities.]

Ottawa “Freedom Convoy 2022”

- Not assessed at this time.

Other Provinces / National

- On 14 Feb, the GOC announced the declaration of a public order emergency under the *Emergencies Act*, to end disruptions, border blockades and the occupation of Ottawa's downtown core. The public order emergency grants the Federal Government the authority to apply the following temporary measures:
 - o Regulating and prohibiting public assemblies, including blockades, other than lawful advocacy, protest or dissent.
 - o Regulating the use of specified property, including goods to be used with respect to a blockade.
 - o Designating and securing places where blockades are to be prohibited (e.g. borders, approaches to borders, other critical infrastructure).
 - o Directing specified persons to render essential services to relieve impacts of blockades on Canada's economy.
 - o Authorizing or directing specified financial institutions to render essential services to relieve the impact of blockades, including by regulating and prohibiting the use of property to fund or support the blockades
 - o Measures with respect to authorizing the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to enforce municipal and provincial laws by means of incorporation by reference.
 - o The imposition of fines or imprisonment for contravening on any of the measures declared under this public order emergency.
- In order to declare a public order emergency, the *Emergencies Act* requires that there be an emergency that arises from threats to the security of Canada that are so serious as to be a national emergency. Threats to the security of Canada may include the threat or use of acts of serious violence against persons or property for the purpose of achieving a political or ideological objective. A national emergency is an urgent, temporary and critical situation that seriously endangers the health and safety of Canadians that cannot be effectively dealt with by the provinces or territories, or that seriously threatens the ability of the Government of

Canada to preserve the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Canada. It must be a situation that cannot be effectively dealt with by any other law of Canada.

- Once the GOC makes a formal declaration of a public order emergency, the declaration is effective for up to 30 days. However, the Houses of Parliament must confirm this declaration, and it has the power to revoke it at any time, as does the Government.
- As part of invoking the *Emergencies Act*, the GOC announced the following immediate actions:
 - Broadening of the scope of Canada's anti-money laundering and terrorist financing rules so that they cover crowdfunding platforms and the payment service providers they use. These changes cover all forms of transactions, including digital assets such as cryptocurrencies.
 - The illegal blockades have highlighted the fact that crowdfunding platforms, and some of the payment service providers they use, are not fully captured under the *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act*.
 - [Canada's] banks and financial institutions are already obligated to report to the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada, or FINTRAC. As of today, all crowdfunding platforms, and the payment service providers they use, must register with FINTRAC and must report large and suspicious transactions to FINTRAC.
 - This will help mitigate the risk that these platforms receive illicit funds; increase the quality and quantity of intelligence received by FINTRAC; and make more information available to support investigations by law enforcement into these illegal blockades.
 - [The GOC] are making these changes because we know that these platforms are being used to support illegal blockades and illegal activity, which is damaging the Canadian economy.
 - The GOC will also bring forward legislation to provide these authorities to FINTRAC on a permanent basis.
 - [The GOC] is issuing an order with immediate effect, under the *Emergencies Act*, authorizing Canadian financial institutions to temporarily cease providing financial services where the institution suspects that an account is being used to further the illegal blockades and occupations. This order covers both personal and corporate accounts.

- [The GOC] are directing Canadian financial institutions to review their relationships with anyone involved in the illegal blockades and report to the RCMP or CSIS.
 - As of today, a bank or other financial service provider will be able to immediately freeze or suspend an account of an individual or business affiliated with these illegal blockades without a court order. In doing so, they will be protected against civil liability.
 - Federal government institutions will have a new broad authority to share relevant information with banks and other financial service providers to ensure that we can all work together to put a stop to the funding of these illegal blockades.
- This is about following the money. This is about stopping the financing of these illegal blockades. We are today serving notice: if your truck is being used in these protests, your corporate accounts will be frozen. The insurance on your vehicle will be suspended. Send your semi-trailers home. The Canadian economy needs them to be doing legitimate work, not to be illegally making us all poorer.
- EMERSON, MB BORDER CROSSING – as of 18:14 CST, [CBSA report](#) Commercial Flow at EMERSON, MB/PEMBINA, ND remains temporarily closed.

International

- Afternoon / Evening foreign media reporting focused on Prime Minister Justin TRUDEAU's invocation of the *Emergencies Act* today. The media reports largely echoed reporting in Canadian media.
- Media reports from Europe indicate a “Freedom Convoy” that arrived in BRUSSELS, BELGIUM today caused less initial impact than expected. Reports note that “several hundred” protestors showed up in the city on foot and approximately 130 vehicles converged on a designated demonstration site outside of the Belgian capital. Despite the low turnout, police reported some arrests. One report notes that the convoy appears to have become fragmented due to poor coordination over social media and some participants opting to travel to STRASBOURG, FRANCE – the joint home of the European Parliament – instead.

MINISTRY UPDATES:

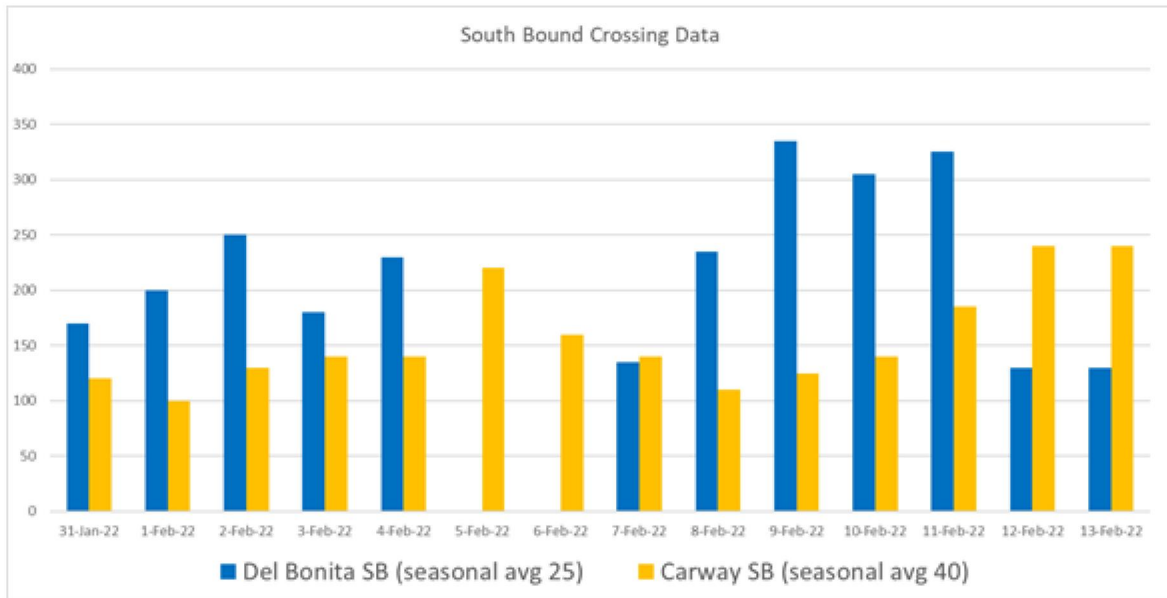
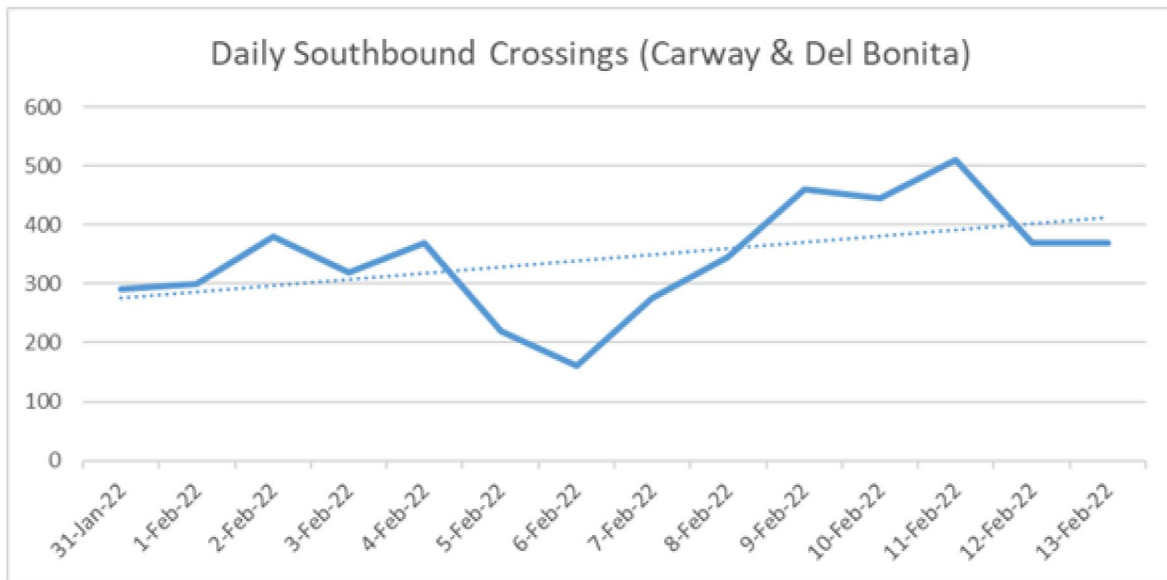
Justice & Solicitor General (JSG):

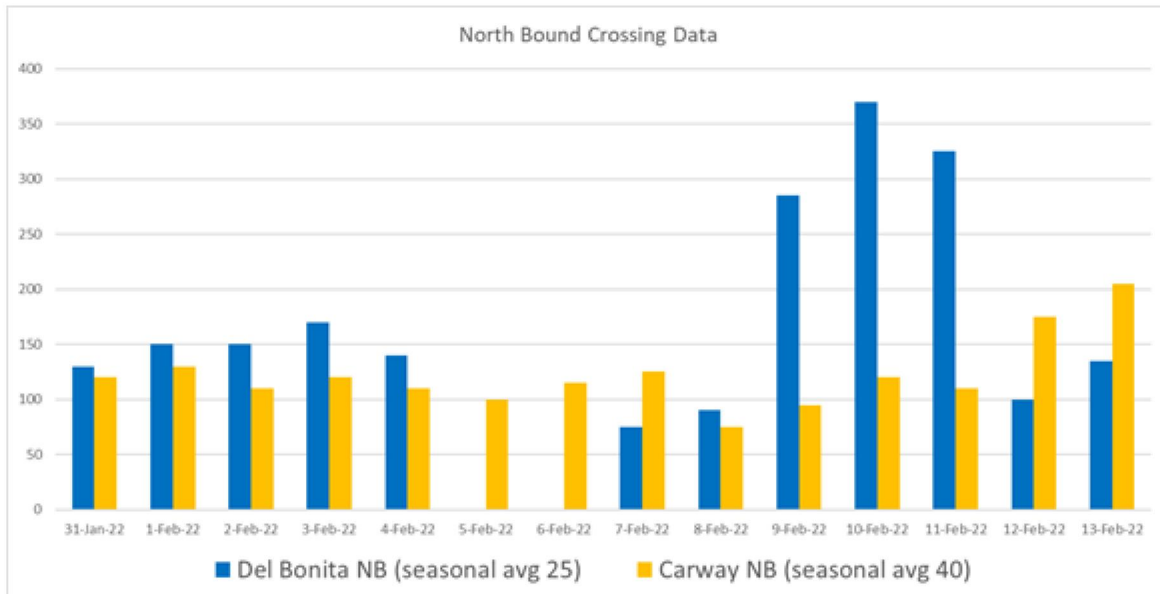
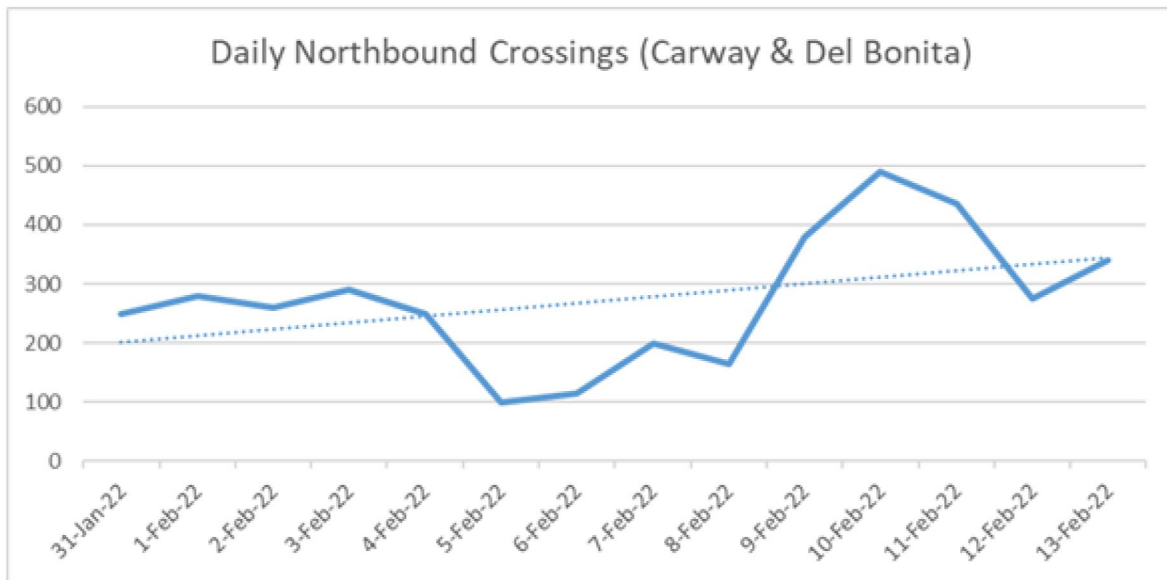
- GOA has secured 14 pieces of heavy equipment and some operators to date. Some currently staged, with other arriving by COB 15 Feb.
- Public Security Division is working to deploy additional resources forward to coordinate equipment logistics and security.

Transportation (TRANS):

- Alberta has 6 land border ports of entry, of which four are open and handling commercial and passenger traffic, as they normally do.
 - The four open ports are DEL BONITA, CARWAY, ADEN and WILDHORSE.
 - COUTTS is currently closed and CHIEF MOUNTAIN is a seasonal port, located in WATERTON PARK, which is not currently open.
 - WILDHORSE is close to the Saskatchewan border, so traffic, while it can still cross there as usual, has not necessarily been directed there specifically as other alternate ports are closer.
- CBSA and USCBP continue to indicate they are prepared to adjust hours of operation at border crossings if needed, as volumes warrant. As of 14 Feb, there continue to be no reported delays at other ports.
- CBSA is accommodating regular commercial traffic at other ports and is working on attempting to designate one other port as a primary substitute for COUTTS.
 - In so doing there will be some limitations as alternate ports will not sustain as much volume without adding considerable delay.
- Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) oversees inspection/certification of agricultural and livestock imports.
 - Livestock shipments coming into Canada can still be inspected at SWEETGRASS, but must then divert to another port to enter Canada, while COUTTS remains closed.
- CBSA is working with these partners to try and establish all of these services at another port, so those shipments do not need to go to SWEETGRASS first. This requires those other agencies to move inspectors.
- DEL BONITA. The Department is confirming CBSA and USCBP will operate DEL BONITA extended hours today and this week.
- ADEN AB/WHITLASH MT. Open Canada: Commercial 09:00-17:00 (Monday to Friday); Travellers 09:00-17:00 (7 days); Open US: 9 am – 5 pm (7 days). Port hours will be assessed by USCBP and CBSA each day in order to react to blockades and volumes.

- WILD HORSE AB/WILD HORSE MT. Open Canada: Commercial 09:00-17:00 (Monday to Friday); Travellers 09:00-17:00 (7 days); US: 08:00-17:00 (7 days). Port hours will be assessed by USCBP and CBSA each day in order to react to blockades and volumes.
- Customs for Agricultural Products (e.g. boxed meat) and Livestock:
 - Southbound into US: CBSA has confirmed that USCBP will facilitate clearance of livestock at any of the other four operational ports into the US but the carrier will have to divert to a location that has a USDA and vet services.
 - It is expected that most Alberta livestock will cross at DEL BONITA and ADEN due to their closeness and divert to SWEETGRASS (each about 1 hour). WILD HORSE AB is 2 hours from SWEETGRASS.
 - Carriers can still choose to cross at another designated port in another Province (KINGSGATE BC, NORTH PORTAL SK, and **EMERSON, MB – temporarily closed**), to move straight through one port only.
 - Northbound into Canada: AFRED has advised that CFIA has confirmed for livestock heading into Canada that inspection occurs at SWEETGRASS. Canada's inspection facility is located on the US side of the border, which is unique from other crossings.
 - Once inspected at SWEETGRASS by Canadian vets, loads are sealed and can travel to an Alberta port of entry (DEL BONITA, CARWAY, ADEN and WILDHORSE) without requiring any additional veterinary inspections.
 - Carriers are informed to book their CFIA inspections of northbound cattle loads at SWEETGRASS as usual.
 - The department is confirming if other inbound shipments for ag/food products are being processed the same way.





Municipal Affairs:

- No change.

Jobs, Economy, and Innovation (JEI):

- No change.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Economic Development (AFRED):

- Canfax weekly reporting on the Cattle Market indicated that last week, the price spread between fed cattle in Alberta and Nebraska was at -\$18.11 per hundredweight. This means producers in Alberta are receiving about \$240 per head less than producers in the U.S. and that spread has widened in recent weeks.
 - o In the past, with cattle value spreads that wide, cattle and beef moved from Canada to the US market. Border restrictions may currently be hampering that movement.
- The Alberta Cattle Feeders Association issued a press release this morning calling on Government for Immediate Action to Open Borders.
- Cargill reports fewer refrigerated trailers available for shipping to the US, and refrigerated cargo containers to ship to BC port are also becoming scarce.
- Drivers for the US shipments are having much longer travel and hours in the truck. Cargill notes that these additional hours and requirements for rest, mean less access to drivers for getting shipments south.
- On 11 Feb, Olymel reported that they have incurred additional costs for layover expenses for drivers stuck at the border, extra mileage for trucks detoured to alternate crossings, rejected loads of delayed product, and additional labour costs to box and freeze returned product.
- Olymel also reports the extra expense of hiring brokers to cover shipments to the US because their usual trucks are stuck at the border

ASSESSMENT & STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS:

- The *Emergencies Act* announcement by the Federal government has dominated social media discourse throughout the day. It has been met with a mix of misconceptions around what the Act can and cannot do, as well as the powers that it provides the Federal Government. It is being regularly confused with the obsolete *War Measures Act*, and in some cases equated to the imposition of martial law.
- Online discourse immediately following the GOC's announcement has reflected a combination of confusion and concern for future activity in MILK RIVER/COUTTS, alongside continued resolution and support for truckers and supporters on site.
- Earlier reports regarding the RCMP's seizure of weapons and ammunition alongside the arrest of 11 individuals in Coutts is being presented within the convoy support community as misinformation and dismissed as attempts to mischaracterize the protest activities in COUTTS. There remains some conspiratorial beliefs as to the rationale for the Federal

government's actions, as has been seen with much of the response to government decision making throughout the COVID-19 pandemic period.

- It is unclear at this time what the impact the government's invocation of the *Emergencies Act* will have on protest activity in and around MILK RIVER/COUTTS. It is possible that these actions will be seen as a serious enough escalation that some supporters will return home while others will further entrench themselves and await a law enforcement response.
- Those engaged in the MILK RIVER/COUTTS blockade, and their supporters who remain, will likely continue to present themselves as a peaceful protest campaign and resist enforcement efforts.
- It is possible that the blockade will move away from the border to other regions of the province, as the Federal government has specifically identified border crossing blockades in its rationale for invoking the *Emergencies Act*.

FORECAST:

- Not assessed at this time.

PREPARED BY: Intelligence Bureau, Provincial Security & Intelligence Office (PSIO)

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Procurement & Tech Stds | *MA*: DM | *Health*: DM | *JEI*: DM//ED Industry & Regional Rel. | *AFRED*:
DM//ED Food Safety
RCMP: KDEOC//KDCAS

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Classification: Protected A